

Civilian pay system changes

By Maj. Diane McDaniels
Comptroller

Appropriated-fund civilians at RAF Lakenheath can expect a new payroll processing system by June 22 as part of the continuing consolidation of accounting and finance services within the Department of Defense.

As part of the consolidation, the civilian payroll office at Ramstein AB, Germany, will close and all functions will be transferred to the Defense Fi-

nance Office at Charleston, S.C.

The payroll processing system change gives both employees and unit timekeepers more responsibility for ensuring the accuracy and timeliness of the individual's pay. Individuals must ensure supervisors provide accurate time sheets to unit timekeepers so that timekeepers can submit the payroll data directly to Charleston on time.

"If payroll data is not received, the system will automatically charge the employee annual leave," said Sandra Bunyan,

financial services office. "If the employee does not have any annual leave, they will be charged leave without pay. Also, if the data submitted is inaccurate and the employee receives less than 90 percent of their pay, a partial payment can be made."

Employees who are incorrectly paid will need to work with their unit timekeeper to have their pay record corrected, which can take up to two pay periods to process.

Address, bond, allotment and W-4 changes will continue to be processed by finance.

Due to the distance between Lakenheath and Charleston, employees should retain all leave and earning statements and other pay documents for their records. This will aid in ensuring the accuracy of their pay and to help document and correct errors if they occur.

All appropriated-fund employees supported by the finance office should have received an information package outlining the new system. For more information, contact unit timekeepers or the finance office at Ext. 3164.



Photos by MSgt. Scott Martin



Photo by TSgt. Sam Shore

340,000 attend Air Fete

More than 340,000 people attended Air Fete '97 at RAF Mildenhall Saturday and Sunday.

Air Fete '97 was the USAFE premier official Air Force 50th anniversary event.

Aerial teams from Switzerland, Italy, Jordan, Britain, France and the United States displayed their talents and aircraft. Flybys were done by a B-2 Spirit, an F-117A Nighthawk, an RAF Harrier GR7, a MiG-29, a Swiss JA37 Viggen and a Spanish EF-18A Hornet. The RAF Falcons parachute team jumped with the American Flag as a tribute to the U.S. Air Force 50th anniversary. The Air Force Thunderbirds appeared in their only European show this year.

(Top left) The Italian Freccia Tricolori perform a maneuver Saturday afternoon.

(Top right) The B-2 Spirit completes its flyby, escorted by two RAF Lakenheath F-15s from the 493rd and 494th fighter squadrons.

(Left) A1C Gabriel Patton, 493rd FS, signs a poster for an Air Fete attendee.